



DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff Scott Smith Chief Deputy

Law of the Month

December 2015

Following Snowplow Too Close on Highway

With winter upon us, the Dodge County Sheriff's Office wants to remind drivers of their obligations while following snowplows while they are plowing snow or salting the roadways. Often motorists follow too closely which is a very dangerous situation for both the snowplows and the other vehicles on the roads.

Following snowplow too close on highways carries a fine of \$175.30 and 3 points. Second violation within a year is \$213.10 and another 3 points.

Wisconsin State Statute 346.915 states: (1) In this section, "snowplow" means a vehicle that is operated by a person employed by or on behalf of an authority in charge of the maintenance of the highway to perform highway winter maintenance snow and ice removal, including plowing, salting and sanding, during either a storm or cleanup following a storm and which is using lamps described in s. [347.26 \(7\)](#). (2) (a) The operator of any vehicle that is not a snowplow may not follow a snowplow closer than the following distances, if the snowplow is engaged in highway winter maintenance snow and ice removal, as described in sub. [\(1\)](#), and is using lamps described in s. [347.26 \(7\)](#): 1. Two hundred feet upon any highway having a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour. 2. Seventy-five feet upon any highway having a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less.

Dodge County Sheriff's Office Captain Trace Frost asks all motorists to maintain the following distances stated above. Frost said "By following at a safe distance, the highway workers can safely maintain our roadways for all motorists".